

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMSLISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for writing and reproducing data comprising:

processing means for processing inputted data and producing processed data;

storage means for storing said processed data in a storage medium;

decompression means for decompressing processed data stored in said storage medium and producing decompressed data;

reproducing means for reproducing said decompressed data ~~that can be independent of said inputted while new input~~ data is being processed by said processing means; and

control means for controlling said storage means to store said processed new input data processed by said processing means in said storage medium during reproducing of said decompressed data by said reproducing means.

2. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means includes means for compressing said inputted data and producing compressed data.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said storage means stores said compressed data in said storage medium and said decompression means decompresses

compressed data stored in said storage medium.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said storage means stores said compressed data in said storage medium and said decompression means decompresses selected compressed data, that can be different from said compressed inputted data, also stored in said storage medium.

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said processing means compresses said inputted data into MPEG format.

6. (Withdrawn from Consideration) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said processing means compresses said inputted data into ATRAC format.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means comprises a converting means for converting a format of said inputted data.

8. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said inputted data is compressed in a predetermined compression format and said converting means comprises second decompression means for decompressing said inputted compressed data and a compression means for compressing said decompressed data in another compression format.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising a reading out means for reading out data stored in a second storage medium and producing read-out data, wherein said processing means inputs said read out data and processes said read-out data.

10. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second storage medium comprises a disc shaped storage medium.

11. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said second storage medium comprises a non volatile memory.

12. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said processing means includes means for processing data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising reading out means for reading out data stored in said storage medium therefrom at a predetermined reading out data rate,

wherein said control means controls said storage means to write said processed data at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading out data rate.

14. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising a buffer memory for temporarily storing said data read out from said storage medium,

wherein said control means controls stopping writing of said processed data in said storage medium by said storage means and controls said reading out means to read out said stored data from said storage medium when said stored data in said buffer memory is less than a predetermined amount.

15. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said storage medium is a portable medium.

17. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

18. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reproducing data comprising:

converting means for converting inputted data of a first compression format into converted data of a second compression format;

outputting means for outputting said converted data converted by said converting means;

reproducing means for reproducing data corresponding to said converted data; and

control means for controlling said outputting means to output said converted data during concurrently with the reproducing of said data by said reproducing means.

19. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said converting means comprises decompression means for decompressing said inputted compression data and compression means for compressing said decompressed data into said data of said second compression format.

20. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said reproducing means reproduces said decompressed data decompressed by said decompression means.

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 53, wherein said apparatus further comprises:

reading out means for reading out said data of said second compression format stored in said storage medium from said storage medium; and

second decompression means for decompressing said read out compression data,

wherein said reproducing means reproduces decompressed data decompressed by said second decompression means.

22. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said converting means compresses said inputted data into MPEG format.

23. (Withdrawn from Consideration) An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said converting means compresses said inputted compression data into compression data of ATRAC

format.

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising reading out means for reading out compression data stored in a storage medium,

wherein said converting means converts said read out compression data of said first compression format to said converted data of said second compression format.

25. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said storage medium comprises a disc shaped storage medium.

26. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said storage medium comprises a non volatile memory.

27. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said converting means converts said compression data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

28. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said reading out means reads out said compression data of said second compression format stored in said storage medium at a predetermined reading out data rate and said control means controls said outputting means to write said said compression data of said second compression format at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading out data rate.

29. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising a buffer memory for storing said data read out from said storage medium temporarily,

wherein said control means controls said outputting means to stop writing said converted data in said storage medium and said reading out means to read out said stored data from said storage medium when said stored data in said buffer memory is less than a predetermined amount.

30. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

31. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said storage medium is a portable medium.

32. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 21, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for reproducing data comprising:

processing means for processing inputted data according to a predetermined requirement;

outputting means for outputting data generated by the processing means as output data;

reproducing means for reproducing data generated by the processing means; and

control means for controlling said outputting means to output said output data during reproducing of the data by said reproducing means, wherein the reproduced data ~~can be independent of~~ can be different data than the output data produced by said outputting means.

34. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means includes means for decompressing said inputted data, wherein when said inputted data is compressed in a compression format, and said means for decompressing performs a decompression process corresponding to said compression format and produces decompressed data, and wherein said reproducing means reproduces said decompressed data.

35. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said reproducing means reproduces, when said inputted data is uncompressed data, said uncompression data supplied through said processing means.

36. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said outputting means outputs, when said inputted data is compressed data, said compression data supplied through said processing means.

37. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein, when said inputted data is uncompressed data, said processing means compresses said uncompression data in a

desired compression format and said outputting means outputs compressed data from said processing means.

38. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said outputting means writes said supplied data in a storage medium, and said apparatus further comprises:

reading out means for reading out data stored in said storage medium, and said control means controls said reading out means to read out data stored in said storage medium that is different from said supplied data and controls said reproducing means to reproduce said read out data during writing of said supplied data in said storage medium by said outputting means.

39. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 38 wherein said reading out means reads out data stored in said storage medium at a predetermined reading out data rate and said control means controls said outputting means to write said supplied data at a faster writing data rate than said predetermined reading out data rate in said storage medium.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 39, further comprising a buffer memory for storing said data read out from said storage medium temporarily,

wherein said control means controls said outputting means to stop writing said supplied data in said storage medium and controls said reading-out means to read-out said stored data

from said storage medium when said stored data in said buffer memory is less than a predetermined amount.

41. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said storage medium is a removable medium.

42. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 41, wherein said storage medium is a portable medium.

43. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein said storage medium comprises a hard disk.

44. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, further comprising reading out means for reading out data stored in a storage medium,

wherein said processing means processes said read out data as required.

45. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said storage medium comprises a disc shaped storage medium.

46. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 44, wherein said storage medium comprises a non volatile memory.

47. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means processes data inputted from an external source via communication lines.

48. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means compresses said inputted data into MPEG format.

49. (Withdrawn from Consideration) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein said processing means compresses said inputted data into ATRAC format.

50. (Currently Amended) A method for writing and reproducing data comprising the steps of:

processing inputted data and producing processed data; storing said processed data in a storage medium; decompressing processed data stored in said storage medium;

reproducing decompressed data obtained in said step of decompressing, ~~wherein the reproduced data can be independent of the while new input data is processed data produced in said step of processing; and~~

controlling storing of said processed new input data processed in said step of processing in said storage medium during reproducing of said decompressed data.

51. (Currently Amended) A method for reproducing data comprising the steps of:

converting inputted compression data of a first compression format into converted data of a second compression

format;

    outputting said converted data;

    reproducing data corresponding to said converted data;

and

    controlling outputting of said converted data during concurrently with the reproducing of said converted data.

52. (Currently Amended) A method for reproducing data comprising the steps of:

    processing inputted data as required;

    outputting data generated in the processing step as output data;

    reproducing data generated in the processing step; and

    controlling to output said output data during reproducing of the data in the reproducing step, wherein the reproduced data ~~can be independent of~~ can be different data than said output data produced in the outputting step.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising storage means for storing said converted data in a storage medium.